

Mother Goose in a Sixteenth Century Theater

US : 1912 : dir. : Edison Silent : ? min
 prod: : scr: : dir.ph.:
Yale Boss; Andy Clark; William Porter Jr
 Adult cast unknown

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω	8	≠	M	⚡	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
5157	1	0	0	477	-	-	-	-	-	No	unseen

Excerpt from **The Moving Picture Boy** entry on Yale Boss:

"Fair and flop-haired, Yale Boss ("Yale" an anglicisation of his Swiss grandmother's maiden name) was perhaps the best-loved of all America's early film children. He was a better-looking Mickey Rooney, usually cast in cheeky parts but perfectly capable of dignified pathos. He could "provoke shouts of laughter or cause unbidden tears to flow", and was prodigal in "little touches which would only be expected of actors of great experience". His sisters Matilda and Frances also acted, though apparently with less power.

In 1907 he had a leading role in a Broadway musical called "Top of the World", and his first screen appearance was directed by D.W. Griffith for Biograph. After a brief move to Thanhouser, he settled with Edison in 1911, on a five-year contract at \$25 a week. During this period he played in a constant stream of two-reelers. His total tally is said to have been more than 300 titles... He was best known latterly as the office boy in the series "**DOLLY OF THE DAILIES**".

The Moving Picture Boy entry on Clark:

"Edison's homely comic kid, overlapping with Yale Boss and then taking over from him, established his renown through the series of twelve one-reelers, **"THE ADVENTURES OF ANDY"**. After five years of intense and popular activity Andy Clark took a rest. But later he returned to the screen, playing a jockey in two films of the mid-Twenties, and was seen again in 1930 in **"HIT THE DECK"**. He also became an assistant director."

[no listing in "Classics of the Silent Screen", "A Pictorial History of the Silent Screen", "Silent Movies: A Picture Quiz Book", "Halliwell's Film Guide", "Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide 1996", "Speelfilm Encyclopedie", "The Critics' Film Guide", "The Good Film and Video Guide", "Movies on TV and Videocassette 1988-89", "Rating the Movies (1990)", "The Sunday Times Guide to Movies on Television", "The Time Out Film Guide", "TV Times Film & Video Guide 1995", "Variety Movie Guide 1993", "Video Movie Guide 1993" or "The Virgin Film Guide"]

No further information currently available, but what a knockout title! Nothing else is known of William Porter Jr beyond a half dozen films he made the same year, including **"THE JAM CLOSET"**, **"HIS MOTHER'S HOPE"** and **"EDDIE'S EXPLOIT"**. Andy Clark was 9 and Yale Boss 13. See also the earlier British title **"MOTHER GOOSE NURSERY RHYMES"** (1902) and the children's TV series **"Mother Goose Stories"**.

See subject index under [FANTASY / FOLK TALES / FAIRY TALES](#) and [SILENT CINEMA](#).